



**West Lafayette Beautification Award  
February 2009  
Thomas Kesler**

In the year 2000 Thomas Kesler began to voluntarily pick up garbage in the block around his home. He later expanded his self-assigned task to picking up garbage in the nearby alley. In 2006 he further expanded his task and “picked up garbage in every alley in New Chauncey Neighborhood.” The garbage he has collected includes foodstuffs, more than 30 tires, six car batteries and immeasurable recyclables. Then in 2006 he met “a man with a truck.” The availability of the truck allowed for the pick up of concrete rubble-*Really heavy concrete rubble*. One clean up of three lots resulted in six truck loads of rubble and also an acute attack of poison ivy for Kesler. Kesler and his anonymous truck owner deliver the rubble to American Paving & Asphalt in Lafayette, IN and, for a fee, that business accepts brick-free, concrete rubble. Kesler always requests written permission to collect the rubble if it is on private property. After more than 120 requests for permission Kesler has only been rejected three times. Kesler continues to pick up garbage, cigarette debris and concrete rubble in an effort to maintain cleaner neighborhoods and cleaner waterways.